Using Tech to Increase Parent Involvement

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* high school level parents don’t receive as much contact from students as they had at elementary level
* parent involvement increases success in school
  + graduation rates go up consistently
  + behavior improves
* if parents know what's happening in the classroom, they are more likely to be touching base
* parent involvement programs DO work
* predict parent involvement
  + design homework that increases parent/student interaction
  + holding workshops for families
  + communicating with parents about child’s education (AT LEAST weekly)
* parents need the message they are WANTED and VALUED
  + 3 factors
    - parents belief about what is important, necessary, and permissible for what they can do with their children
    - parents believe they CAN have a positive influence (share the demographics on this!)
    - parents perceptions that their children and school want them involved
* when a parent feels connected on a regular basis, they will not feel the need to barge in on the classroom-create a physical boundaries by letting them know they matter
* know your type of parent! (single, two parent, grandparents...etc.)
  + social economic status
  + race demographics
* find where the parents are and how to connect
* how to get them involved
  + email-have to be consistent! they need know how they will hear back and in what time
  + website-weebly.com-feature student work (get permission first)
  + class tweeter!-students evaluate what is worth sharing-set it so you accept followers and you have to approve them
  + class/school blog-students could blog and parents are given access-invite parents to be contributors to the blog-other parents cheering you on!
  + using audio/video chat-blackboard.com-invite as guest speakers, send out surveys to see what their interest area are-send parent to place and do a virtual field trip
  + authentic audience-creates a way for students to share their work and/or brag about what they do
* world read aloud day: first week of March-invite parents, video conference read aloud students to parents
* google docs collaboration
  + involve parent in classroom events
  + assign parent a task and they edit and watch document
* voicethread
  + allows student and teacher to input a series of photo/videos and add text, video, vocal comments
  + can use to showcase work for parents
  + students record a message and parents can comment
  + they KNOW what their students are accomplishing and they know what their students are accomplishing
* flockdraw
  + up to six people can write a whiteboard at a time-change ending on your own to have people join
  + does not save the work outdoor of the activity
  + real time working home school/work school
* volunteerspot:
  + free and share with parents
  + they sign up for the spots
  + sends reminder emails
  + sets it up and times to show what they have
* remind 101
  + communicates via email or text messages
  + doesn’t give your or their personal phone number
* its not about the app, but the activities themselves that are creating the atmosphere
* storybird
  + uses professional artwork
  + students can write stories that go with the pictures
  + focus is on the writing because not spending time on pictures
  + allows students to write with one other person who they can invite via email (invite an email, grandparent, etc.)
* important, valuable, valued, and wanted